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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/754,235	01/03/2001	Richard Hsiao	SJO990204US1	2602

7590 05/22/2003

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW OFFICE  
1901 S. BASCOM AVENUE  
SUITE 660  
CAMPBELL, CA 95008

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

AHMED, SHAMIM

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1765

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action**

Application No.

09/754,235

Applicant(s)

HSIAO ET AL.

Examiner

Shamim Ahmed

Art Unit

1765

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 15 May 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a)  The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
b)  The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1.  A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2.  The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
  - they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
  - they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
  - they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
4.  Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5.  The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6.  The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7.  For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) objected to: 1-38. 

Claim(s) rejected: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

8.  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a)a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9.  Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) ( PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.

10.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicants argues that Roth et al do not teach the last limitation of removing a portion of the stop layer subsequent to the polishing step.

This is not persuasive because Roth et al teach that a planar layer 22 is formed over the etch stop layer 18 and after polishing back the planar layer, the polish stop layer is removed (see specially figure 9).

As to claim 15, Applicants argue that Roth et al and Cheng et al are readily combinable because Cheng et al do not teach the polish stop layer is deposited upon the components projecting upwardly from the substrate surface.

This is not persuasive because Cheng et al clearly disclose a process, wherein a polish stop layer (18) is deposited upon to top surface of the components (14) (see the rejection).

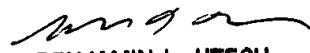
As to claim 27, Applicants argue that Roth et al covers the component structure (14) with a first material layer (16) but do not teach that the thickness of the layer 16 should be less than the height of the components.

This is not persuasive because Roth et al teach that the thickness of the material layer 16 is maintained according to the topography of the projected components and the layer 16 having two different height one is above the surface of the substrate 12 and another one is above the substrate material, that explain that the height of the layer could have been less than the height of the component.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shamim Ahmed whose telephone number is (703) 305-1929. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu (7:00-5:30) Every Friday Off. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin Utech can be reached on (703) 308-3836. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Shamim Ahmed  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1765

SA  
May 5, 2003

  
BENJAMIN L. UTECH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700